

# YAMPA RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2001

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**“Working with the citizens of the Yampa River Basin to balance natural resource and social issues to protect and enhance our quality of life through open communication, education and coordination of efforts.”**

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## Yampa River Basin Partnership Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting and Catered Barbeque

Wednesday, September 12, 2001

Dinner at 5:00 p.m. – Annual meeting to follow from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Yampa River State Park Headquarters  
Hayden, CO

*Reservations are necessary*

**RSVP by Tues, Sept. 4th to Audrey**

**Ph: 970-824-8233**

**Email: [infocenter@co.routt.co.us](mailto:infocenter@co.routt.co.us)**

### What's on the Annual Meeting agenda?

- ☐ Yampa Recovery Implementation Plan
- ☐ DOW Non native fish control strategy
- ☐ Elkhead Reservoir Expansion plans
- ☐ Yampa Basin Watershed Plan
- ☐ Moffat Co. Land Use updates
- ☐ Election of Executive Steering Committee for Year 2002
- ☐ Work Plan for Year 2002

### Questions about YRBP:

Audrey Danner, Exec. Dir.

Yampa Valley Partners

P: 970-824-8233

Email: [infocenter@co.routt.co.us](mailto:infocenter@co.routt.co.us)

## What does the Yampa River Basin Partnership work on?

### **In 2001 ...**

- Participate in and coordinate with the public on the Yampa Recovery Implementation Plan
- Develop a Yampa River Basin wide Programmatic Biologic Opinion
- Development of Yampa River Aquatic Plan ( DOW Aquatic Wildlife Management Plan for Yampa River Basin )
- Participate in process of Yampa Basin Watershed Plan -Routt/Moffat 208 Plan

### Information updates:

- Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment programs
- Water Quality Standards Review
- pH trends of Yampa River near Maybell
- Wildlife Management
- Moffat County Land Use Plan
- Dinosaur National Monument
- Stocking of pike and bass in Elkhead Reservoir and State Wildlife Ponds

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## Are you interested in the Yampa River Basin Partnership?

### Check List:

- **Sign** the Resolution of Participation
- **Enclose \$20.00** annual fee made payable to: Yampa River Basin Partnership
- **Write** your contact information
- **Send** to Audrey at Yampa Valley Partners  
% **Yampa River Basin Partnership**  
**745 Russell Street**  
**Craig, CO 81625**

It's that easy! Thank you for your support!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose your \$20 annual fee.  
Sign the Resolution form on the right side.

Send this completed page with \$20 to:

### Questions about YRBP:

Audrey Danner, Exec. Dir.  
Yampa Valley Partners  
P: 970-824-8233  
F: 970-824-2548

Email: [infocenter@co.routt.co.us](mailto:infocenter@co.routt.co.us)

## Sign up NOW!

### A RESOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE YAMPA RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP

We / I have reviewed the  
Memorandum of  
Understanding creating the  
Yampa River Basin  
Partnership and are in general  
agreement with its provisions.

I / We hereby indicate my  
intention to participate in the  
Yampa River Basin  
Partnership.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

## YRBP: Notes from Chair, Ben Beall:

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The Yampa River Basin Partnership (YRBP) is to be congratulated. The YRBP Executive Steering Committee has met throughout the past year and continued its efforts to facilitate the adoption of a Yampa Management Plan (Yampa Plan), which would lead to the recovery of the endangered fish that have been listed in the Yampa River and remove the threat of outside regulations from the Endangered Species Act. We have stayed at the table through some frustrating times. The Yampa Plan, which is now being called the Yampa Recovery Implementation Plan, is in a draft form and is proposed to have the Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) part finalized in January 2002. When and if all parties involved approve the PBO this step one, an agreement on the road map for the Yampa River, will be in place. However, as much as others and I had hoped that this "map" would have been completed this year, we now understand that this is just the beginning. There is more that will happen in the next few years on the Yampa and members of the YRBP will need to continue to be at the table.

Some of this delay is positive. Out of this Yampa Plan process and the YRBP interaction in the process with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Division of Wildlife, citizens of the Valley and other parties a consensus was arrived at that is the guide for the Yampa Recovery Implementation Plan. Part of this consensus was that Elkhead Reservoir would be expanded. Now in 2001 this project, which has become an integral part of the Yampa Plan is slowly moving toward permit applications and EIS public meetings.

We have just learned at the recent Angler's Roundtable Meeting, that with the expansion of Elkhead, the reservoir will need to be drained. This raises some questions that must be answered. We all realize that the Elkhead expansion is a beneficial infrastructure investment for the Yampa Basin. It will supply water for the recovery of the endangered fish, for future water for the City of Craig and the citizens of Valley, and for improved recreation in the enlarged reservoir. With the draining of Elkhead there is the possibility of losing the recreational fishery that exists because of the non-native fish that make up this fishery. It will be up to the YRBP as the representative of all the interests in the Basin to forge a cost-effective compromise where many complex and competing issues will have to be addressed. There is a lot of thoughtful work that must be accomplished over the next few years to create this compromise.

These might be some of the issues that the YRBP, the USF&WS, the CDOW and the Colorado River Water Conservation District will have to address:

- restocking of non-native fish in Elkhead Reservoir,
  - change in the Yampa River Aquatic Management Plan that would allow lethal take of non-native fish in the Yampa,
  - cost effective design of the dam structure that does not require a fish screen, and
  - agreement by all parties of a management/maintenance plan for the non-native fish in the Yampa.
- This compromise may have to be in place before the Yampa Plan can move forward.

I am optimistic that the YRBP will be up to its efforts to protect and to enhance the natural resources of the Yampa River for the future generations of the Yampa Basin. Not only did the YRPB work on the Yampa Plan but the Executive Steering Committee in 2001 assisted with the efforts to create a new water quality plan, the Yampa Basin Watershed Plan for Routt and Moffat Counties and was the sounding board for the State of Colorado of the Water Quality Standards for the Lower Yampa River.

Please plan to participate at the Annual Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Remember to mail in your dues and enclosed membership form.

Thank you, Ben Beall, Chairman of YRBP

Phone: 970-879-4234

Email: [ben@beallhome.com](mailto:ben@beallhome.com)

**Yampa River Basin Partnership – Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> - Dinner will be at 5 p.m followed by the**  
**Annual Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Reservations are necessary.**  
**Yampa River State Park Headquarters, Hayden, CO**

## Here is the latest news on the Water Quality Standards for Lower Yampa / Green Basin – Revisions

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The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission conducted a hearing in Grand Junction, July 9 and 10, 2001, to consider revisions to water quality standards for the Lower Colorado regulations. The Lower Yampa basin from Elkhead Creek confluence with the Yampa River to the Green River and the Green River basin in Colorado were part of this rule-making hearing. The staff of the Water Quality Control Division and the Commission members were pleased to have the participation of people from Moffat County and the Yampa River Basin Partnership. The significant changes to water quality standards that were adopted by the Commission are summarized as follows:

Segment 3a – Big Gulch. Recreation Class 1a was adopted with a fecal coliform standard of 200 per 100ml and E coli of 126 per 100 ml. Metal standards to protect agricultural uses were also adopted (such as cadmium, chromium, copper, manganese that could affect livestock drinking water and irrigation use). Big Gulch is now Segment 3f.

Segments 3b,c,d,e – Gulches south of Craig, Milk Creek below Thornsburg, Good Spring, Wilson Creek, Temple Gulch, Morgan Gulch, and Lay Creek. Standards to protect aquatic life (small fish and macroinvertebrates) were adopted for these streams. The recreation standards were changed from Class 2 to Class 1b (325 fecal coliform and 205 E coli). Prior standard for Class 2 was 2,000 fecal coliform and 630 E coli.

Segment 5 – Fortification Creek. Recreation Class 1a was adopted for mainstem and Freeman Reservoir (Segment 6b) and Class 1b for other Fortification tributaries. Previously all Recreation Class 2. Aquatic Life Class 1 Cold adopted for Freeman Res.

Segments 9,10,11,12,13 – Williams Fork of the Yampa. Previous classification of Recreation 2 for all segments. Recreation Class 1a adopted for East Fork of Williams below Forest Service land, and for mainstem segments from Pagoda to Hamilton and to Yampa confluence. South Fork of Williams, Beaver Creek, Milk Creek to Thornsburg, and Morapos Creek were classified Recreation 1b. Aldrich Lakes, Segment 12b, classified Rec. 1a.

Segment 14 – tributaries to Yampa below Lay Creek to Green River confluence. Streams within Dinosaur National Monument, some of which have Recreation 1a uses, were moved to Segment 20 and were changed to Recreation 1a. Remaining streams in Segment 14 are still classified as Recreation 2. Agriculture standards were adopted for livestock and/or irrigation use.

Segments 15,16,17, 18 – Little Snake River. Mainstem of Little Snake from headwaters to Yampa was changed from Recreation Class 2 to Class 1a. Tributaries to Little Snake, from headwaters to Fourmile Creek, changed to Recreation Class 1b and aquatic life standards were adopted. Little Snake tributaries below Fourmile Creek to Yampa, remain Recreation Class 2 with agriculture standards adopted. Slater Creek basin changed to Recreation 1b from previous Class 2.

Segment 20 – Tributaries to Green River. Streams within Dinosaur National Monument changed to Recreation Class 1a from Class 2. Other streams in this segment not in the Monument are moved to Segment 14 and remain Class 2. Agriculture standards were adopted for Segment 20.

Segment 21 – Beaver Creek (Browns Park) changed to Recreation Class 1b from Class 2.

Segment 22 – Vermillion Creek. Seasonal recreation classification from June 1 to August 31 of Class 1b. Recreation Class 2 during the rest of the year.

Thanks again for your input and patience through this process. The Water Quality Control Commission has tentatively decided to combine the Upper Colorado standards review and the Lower Colorado (Lower Yampa/Green, White River, and Colorado basin from Glenwood Springs to the stateline) for the next hearing, scheduled for July, 2003. The Upper Yampa and Lower Yampa/Green will be part of the same hearing and rule-making revisions in the future. This arrangement is favored by the Yampa 208 watershed plan steering committee. Bill McKee, Water Quality Control Division, welcomes your questions and comments at phone 303-692-3583 or email: [bill.mckee@state.co.us](mailto:bill.mckee@state.co.us)

# Membership Form

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**Yes, I would like to support the Yampa River Basin Partnership!**

My \$20 annual dues include:

- ☐ Information on critical issues to the Yampa River Basin
    - ☐ Annual newsletter
    - ☐ Annual meeting
  - ☐ One vote on each issue!
- 

- ☐ Enclosed is a \$20.00 check written to 'Yampa River Basin Partnership'
  - ☐ Enclosed is the Resolution of Participation (see below) – signature required
  - ☐ Mail to: Yampa River Basin Partnership  
*Administration* % Yampa Valley Partners  
745 Russell Street, Craig, CO 81625
- 

Resolution of Participation:

I have reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding creating the Yampa River Basin Partnership and am in general agreement with its provisions. I hereby indicate my intention to participate in the Yampa River Basin Partnership.

*Signed* \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support.*

**“Working with the citizens of the Yampa River Basin to balance natural resource and social issues to protect and enhance our quality of life through open communication, education and coordination of efforts.”**

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**YAMPA RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP  
Admin % Yampa Valley Partners  
745 Russell Street  
Craig, CO 81625**

## YRBP: Notes from Vice Chair, Les Hampton:

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2001 and 2002 are exciting times for the residents of the upper and lower reaches of the Yampa. Several significant actions have begun or are on going which are designed to return the river habitat to its natural state.

- ✓ The Northern Pike translocation project is actually removing significant numbers of pike from the river.
- ✓ The screening process to restrict the pike to their breeding is in progress.
- ✓ Preliminary assessment studies have begun on the new Elkhead Reservoir Expansion Project.

For 2002 we expect to see and review the actual plans of the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement with construction beginning year 2004. These actions are the result of responses from local residents.

These projects are even more exciting because of our local involvement. I believe that the residents of the Yampa Valley through the Yampa River Basin Partners (YRBP) have played a key role in participating, listening, understanding, communicating, and providing feedback to the necessary agencies to achieve the progress that has taken place. We have provided just another proof to Thomas Jefferson's statement "America is not run by the majority, but by the majority that participates."

Even though these exciting projects are in progress the work of the YRBP is not complete. We must follow through until the Elkhead project is complete and the river habitat supports a healthy population of de-listed Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback Suckers, Bonytail and Humpback Chubs.

Thanks, Les Hampton  
Phone 970-824-5517  
Email: [lhampton@cmn.net](mailto:lhampton@cmn.net)

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**Just a reminder – Mail in your dues and membership form!**

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### Internet sites for information:

<a href="http://www.nps.gov/dino">www.nps.gov/dino</a>	<a href="http://www.co.blm.gov">www.co.blm.gov</a>	<a href="http://www.fws.gov">www.fws.gov</a>	<a href="http://www.wildlife.state.co.us">www.wildlife.state.co.us</a>
<a href="http://www.state.co.us">www.state.co.us</a>	<a href="http://www.co.moffat.co.us/NaturalResources">www.co.moffat.co.us/NaturalResources</a>		
<a href="http://www.co.routt.co.us">www.co.routt.co.us</a>	<a href="http://www.dnr.state.co.us">www.dnr.state.co.us</a>		
<a href="http://www.treeswaterpeople.org">www.treeswaterpeople.org</a>			

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### Upcoming Items of Interest:

Colorado Watershed Assembly – September 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> in Frisco, CO at the Frisco Holiday Inn  
This event will provide a wide range of information about current and upcoming watershed issues, as well as highlighting the activities of watershed groups throughout the state.

Colorado Nonpoint Source Program Forum 2001 Oct 29-30  
Call Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment at 303-692-3571 for details.

Trees, Water & People, 633 South College Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80524  
Helping communities establish sustainable forests and watersheds. Richard Fox is traveling the state providing fundraising and membership development training. The recently begun working with the new GIS map of Colorado watersheds developed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and adding a training session to use the new NRCS resource. Call 970-484-3678 for details.

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## Yampa Basin Watershed Plan – (208 Plan of Routt and Moffat County)

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### BACKGROUND

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), in cooperation with the Yampa River Basin Partnership (YRBP), is in the process of preparing a *Yampa Basin Watershed Plan (Watershed Plan)*. Montgomery Watson has been hired to prepare the *Watershed Plan*, through a joint agreement between CDPHE, Routt County, and Moffat County.

The *Watershed Plan* will encompass both Routt and Moffat Counties and will update plans previously prepared in Routt County in 1996 and Moffat County in 1986. The updated *Watershed Plan* will be consistent with the requirements of Section 208 of the *Clean Water Act*, administered by CDPHE for this basin, and is sometimes referred to as a “208 Plan”. Issues to be addressed in the *Watershed Plan* include the following:

- Water and wastewater facility needs
- Present and future service areas of the water/wastewater providers
- Nonpoint source pollution control and prevention strategies (soil erosion, storm water runoff, agricultural best management practices, septic systems, etc.)
- Responsibilities and roles of various agencies to protect water quality in the Yampa basin.

The major watershed planning tasks to be completed are summarized below.

- **Water Resources:** An overview of the *Yampa Basin Watershed Plan* will be prepared, including all major water bodies and waterways, as well as land ownership and current socioeconomic and population characteristics and future projections.
- **Water Quality:** Existing water quality data will be reviewed to assess the location and extent of water quality and watershed concerns. Issues such as impacts to habitat, erosion, and sediment load will be evaluated and recommendations for further action will be made.
- **Facility Planning/Design:** An inventory of public water systems and domestic and industrial wastewater facilities will be prepared, including a description of activities, treatment processes and waterway discharge location, volume and limits.

The main goals of the *Watershed Plan* are to address water quality concerns and provide for the maintenance of high quality water in the Yampa basin.

### STATUS

The process to update the water quality plans for Routt and Moffat Counties into a combined Yampa basin plan was initiated in early 2001 with public meetings held in Craig and Steamboat Springs. An advisory group is currently reviewing background information and developing policy statements, goals and objectives, recommendations, and implementation strategies for the basin. Work-to-date includes collection, compilation, and evaluation of data on the river system and review of potential financing mechanisms to continue water quality data collection, evaluation, and management. The *Watershed Plan* will encourage best management practices for use by the public and government agencies.

A draft *Watershed Plan* is scheduled to be available in the fall of 2001. At that time, additional public meetings will be held to review the *Watershed Plan*, provide a summary of the planning process, and solicit additional input and feedback from participants regarding local water quality issues and concerns. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for November 7, 2001 in Craig and on November 14, 2001 in Steamboat Springs. It is currently anticipated that the meetings will begin at 7:00 pm. Further information regarding the meetings will be made available to the public after completion of the draft *Watershed Plan*.

For more information, contact Jean Ray at Montgomery Watson Harza  
phone (970) 879-6260 or email: [jean.ray@mwhglobal.com](mailto:jean.ray@mwhglobal.com)



Yampa River Basin Partnership

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting and Catered Barbeque

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